

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Response to Final Office Action replaces and supercedes the previous Response to Final Office Action filed by Applicants on March 28, 2006.

Claims 4, 7, 8, 14, 17, 18, 24, 27 and 28 are now pending in the present application. Claims 7, 8, 17, 18, 27 and 28 have been amended, and all of the rejected Claims 1-3, 5, 9-13, 15, 19-23, 25, 29 and 30 have been cancelled, herewith. No new matter has been added by any of the amendments.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. Applicants request entry of this amendment after final as placing this case in condition for allowance as all pending claims were previously indicated as being allowed or allowable.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 103, Obviousness

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 11-13 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Erimli et al. (US Patent No. 6,480,500), of record, in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicants are canceling such claims herewith without prejudice or disclaimer such that this case can expeditiously pass to issuance.

Therefore, the rejection of Claims 1-3, 11-13 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has been overcome.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103, Obviousness

The Examiner rejected Claims 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Erimli et al. (US Patent No. 6,480,500), of record, in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art as applied to claims 1, 11, and 21 above, and in further view of Khalidi et al. (US Patent No. 6,405,237). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicants are canceling such claims herewith without prejudice or disclaimer such that this case can expeditiously pass to issuance.

Therefore, the rejection of Claims 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has been overcome.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 103, Obviousness

The Examiner rejected Claims 9, 19 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Erimli et al. (US Patent No. 6,480,500), of record, in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art as applied to claims 1, 11, and 21 above, and in further view of Bailey et al. (US Patent No. 6,832,310). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicants are canceling such claims herewith without prejudice or disclaimer such that this case can expeditiously pass to issuance.

Therefore, the rejection of Claims 9, 19 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has been overcome.

IV. Allowed Claims

Applicants graciously acknowledge the allowance of Claims 4, 14 and 24.

V. Objection to Claims

The Examiner stated that Claims 7, 8, 17, 18, 27 and 28 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, the claims have been rewritten accordingly to overcome this objection. It is thus urged that these Claims 7, 8, 17, 18, 27 and 28 are allowable.

VI. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the cited references and is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,



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